

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19. (Currently amended) Process for preparing an aliphatic fluoroformate from an aliphatic alcohol, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein carbonyl fluoride is reacted with the aliphatic alcohol, in a solvent chosen from ethers, at a temperature of between -20°C and 50°C, in the presence of sodium fluoride which is in the form of a powder whose grains have a specific surface of greater than or equal to 0.1 m²/g.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the grains of sodium fluoride have an average diameter of less than or equal to 20µm.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carbonyl fluoride is introduced gradually into the reaction medium which contains the alcohol.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of carbonyl fluoride used is from 1.1 to 2 mol per mole of alcohol.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carbonyl fluoride is obtained by reacting phosgene, excess of sodium fluoride powder whose grains have a specific surface of greater than or equal to $0.1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and/or an average diameter of less than or equal to $20 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, in a solvent chosen from polar aprotic solvents, at a temperature of between 25°C and 120°C , and after passage of the gases present into a condenser whose temperature is between 0°C and -50°C .

Claim 24. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of sodium fluoride used during the reaction of the alcohol with carbonyl fluoride is between 1.1 and 2 mol per mole of the alcohol.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein for the reaction of the alcohol with carbonyl fluoride, the solvent is chosen from tert-butyl methyl ether, dioxane, tetrahydrofuran, 2-methyletetrahydrofuran, dibenzyl ether, ethylene glycol dimethyl ether and polyethylene glycol dimethyl ethers.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fluoroformate obtained is purified by treating it with an alkaline fluoride.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein 1 to 3% by weight of dimethylformamide is added to the fluoroformate solution.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein when it is a solid, the fluoroformate is obtained in crystalline form by adding to the fluoroformate solution a compound which does not dissolve the fluoroformate, chosen from apolar aprotic solvents, after which the fluoroformate is made to precipitate.

Claim 29. (Currently amended) Process for preparing carbonyl fluoride, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein phosgene, diphosgene or triphosgene, or a mixture thereof, is reacted with an excess of sodium fluoride powder whose grains have a specific surface of greater than or equal to $0.1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and/or an average diameter of less than or equal to $20\mu\text{m}$, in a solvent chosen from polar aprotic solvents, at a temperature of between 25°C and 120°C , and the gases present are then passed into a condenser whose temperature is between 0°C and -50°C .

Claim 30. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 29, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the grains of sodium fluoride have a specific surface of greater than or equal to $0.1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

Claim 31. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 29, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the grains of sodium fluoride have an average diameter of less than or equal to $20\mu\text{m}$.

Claim 32. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 29, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the amount of sodium fluoride reacted with the phosgene is from 3 to 5 mol per mole of phosgene.

Claim 33. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 29, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the phosgene and/or its precursors are introduced gradually.

Claim 34. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 29, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the solvent is acetonitrile.

Claim 35. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 29, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein it is performed with anhydrous compounds and under anhydrous conditions.

Claim 36. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 29, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein liquids condensed by the condenser are recycled into the reaction medium.

Claim 37. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 29, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein phosgene is reacted with sodium fluoride.

Claim 38. (Canceled)

Claim 39. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 19, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the aliphatic alcohol is chosen from the group comprising

tert-butanol, benzyl alcohol, adamantanol, fluorenyl-methanol, tert-amyl alcohol and allyl alcohol.

Claim 40. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the grains of sodium fluoride have a specific surface of greater than or equal to $0.1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$,

Claim 41. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the grains of sodium fluoride have an average diameter of less than or equal to $20 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 42. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of sodium fluoride reacted with the phosgene is from 3 to 5 mol per mole of phosgene.

Claim 43. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the phosgene and/or its precursors are introduced gradually.

Claim 44. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solvent is acetonitrile.

Claim 45. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is performed with anhydrous compounds and under anhydrous conditions.

Claim 46. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the liquids condensed by the condenser are recycled into the reaction medium.

Claim 47. (Canceled)

Claim 48. (New) A process for the preparation of an aliphatic fluoroformate by the reaction of carbonyl fluoride with an aliphatic alcohol wherein the carbonyl fluoride is obtained by reacting phosgene, diphosgene or triphosgene, or a mixture thereof, with an excess of sodium fluoride powder whose grains have a specific surface of greater than or equal to $0.1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and/or an average diameter of less than or equal to $20 \mu\text{m}$, in a solvent chosen from polar aprotic solvents, at a temperature of between 25°C and 120°C , and the gases present are then passed into a condenser whose temperature is between 0°C and -50°C .